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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 966
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of former University of
Memphis Assistant Basketball Coach, Dorsey
Sims.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly and Shelby Countians from all walks of
life, were saddened to learn of the death of Dorsey Sims, former Assistant Coach of the
University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the much admired and highly respected Coach Sims was a native of
Haskell, Oklahoma, and a 1955 graduate at Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, he started his exceptional coaching career as the head basketball coach at
Chattanooga Riverside High School, winning two state championships, in 1968 and 1969; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sims continued his extraordinary leadership as the head coach at
Memphis Melrose High School, where he won state titles in 1978 and 1983; and

WHEREAS, his brilliant high school basketball coaching career included more than 650
victories; and

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WHEREAS, Coach Sims was an important factor in the success of the University of Memphis basketball team during his illustrious tenure as an assistant coach under Coach Larry Finch from 1986-1994; and

WHEREAS, his former players have attested to his strong motivational skills as a coach; and

WHEREAS, young men who have played under his adroit leadership have matured to become very successful citizens, both on the basketball court and in life; and

WHEREAS, his numerous commendations include: being selected as the National High School Athletic Coach of the Year in 1989 and his receiving a Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Distinguished Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Tony Madlock, who played for Coach Sims both at Melrose and the University of Memphis and is presently an assistant coach at Arkansas State, paid tribute to his beloved mentor by stating: "He always tried to do the right thing. He was a disciplinarian. On the court and off, he treated us like his kids"; and

WHEREAS, Tim Morgan, who coached against Coach Sims at the high school level and worked with him at the University of Memphis, commented: "It was a very enjoyable experience coaching with him at the university. "He didn't like losing but after losing it was "Let's make it better"; and

WHEREAS, Shelby State Community College basketball coach Verties Sails remembered Coach Sims by fondly stating: "He did things differently than the way I did them, but it came out the same thing: working with young folks and getting them to do the best they could do"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sims was strongly supported by his loving family, his wife Barbara and their two sons, Dorsey III and Max E. Sims; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to honor the memory of this beloved coach, a rare individual who was both a great coach and a great man, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Coach Dorsey Sims, reflecting on his many contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Shelby County community, and express our condolences to his family and associates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.